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1947

PALESTINE

File No. 838

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31 JAN

PALESTINE

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Registry Number ES 38/838/31.  
FROM Trafford Smith  
No. Colonial Office  
Dated 26/3/47  
Received in Registry 24 Jan 1947  
25 Jan 1947

Visit to Jewish Detainee Camp (Eritrea).  
Refer Maitland letter 75156/151F/46 (E2727/204/31) of March 25. & London L.C. of Red Cross. Now enclosed copies of letter from Red Cross Geneva, and of report made by M. JEAN MURIER after his visit to the camp in June. Ask advice re precise status of Red Cross in relation to these detainees.

Last Paper.

(2727/204/31) 46

References.

(Print.)

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(How disposed of.)

Sgt. Trafford Smith  
Feb. 25  
from W. Baxter

(Minutes.)

A delegate of the International Red Cross has visited a camp in Eritrea where a considerable number of Palestinian Jews are detained on suspicion of implication in terrorist activities.

The Colonial Office, in forwarding a copy of his report, asks for our advice on the status of the I.R.C. in relation to these detainees.

H. Bealey

Supply and Relief Dept. for info.

29/1

Consular Dept (Sir H. Paton)  
Can minute on this subject and usefully show S. & R. I understand that the Geneva Convention under which the I.R.C. functions deals mainly with V.O.W.'s.

J. Murray  
(MURRAY)  
4/2

(Action completed.)

of CW 26/1

(Index)

19/6/47

Next Paper:

3957

3200 F.O.P.  
Consular Dept.  
(Sir H. Paton) minute oval.

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It is not the case that the International Red Cross Committee functions under the Geneva Convention. There are two Conventions often described by that name. Both are dated July 27 1929. The full title of one is the "International Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war" and of the other the "International Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded & Sick in Armies in the Field". Both are applicable to happenings in time of war and neither of them can possibly be applicable to suspected Jewish terrorists removed from Palestine. The I. R. R. C. which does not base its action on either Convention is "international" only in the sense that it is a body composed which centre all national Red Cross societies. It is actually composed of Swiss citizens and its activities are those of a general humanitarian nature. While it is natural that the military authorities, <sup>should,</sup> as a matter of convenience, have provided a camp organization very much on the lines of the Prisoners of War Convention, they were not obliged to do so. They and the Palestine Govt. were free to treat these alleged Jewish terrorists as they thought fit. If they wish relief to be sent to the camp through the I. R. R. C. they can ~~do so~~ <sup>allow it</sup>, just as if they think it wise, for example, to examine special cases of those claiming to have served with the British Armed Forces, they could investigate them.

H. Salow.

12. 2. 47.

I submit a draft accordingly.

Sir H. Salow

H. S.  
19/2/47

H. B. Selby 17/2

W. M. 19/2

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E 838

Colonial Office,  
Downing Street,  
S. W. 1.

JAN

14th January, 1947.

76305/1 CONFIDENTIAL

*Dear Baxter,*

Please refer to the copy sent to the Foreign Office of Martin's letter 75156/151F/46 of the 25th March to the Secretary of the London Delegation of the International Red Cross, concerning their request for permission to visit the detention Camp for suspected Jewish terrorists in Eritrea.

I enclose copies of a letter from the Red Cross Head Office in Geneva and of a report made by Mr. Jean Munier after his visit to the Camp last June, copies of which have been sent to the War Office and to the High Commissioner for Palestine. We should be grateful for any comments you may wish to offer and particularly for some advice if possible, on the precise status of the International Red Cross in relation to these detainees. The latter are, of course, suspected terrorists arrested and deported from Palestine on Security grounds and not Prisoners of War.

*Yours sincerely  
T. Alfred Smith*

C. W. BAXTER, ESQ., C. M. G., M. C.

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76305/1/46

21st January, 1947.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Creech Jones to refer to your call at the Colonial Office in October last, during which you submitted a communication dated 22nd October from M. R. Gallosin, Director Delegate of the International Red Cross at Geneva, and a report made by M. Jean Munier, a delegate of the Red Cross in Cairo, after his visit to Camp 119 for Jewish detainees in Eritrea.

The recommendations submitted by M. Gallosin and M. Munier are under consideration and a further reply will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

The delay in sending this reply to the International Committee of the Red Cross is much regretted. An additional copy is enclosed for transmission to Geneva.

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

Sgd. Trafford Smith.

F. BIERI, ESQ.

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COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL  
DE LA  
CROIX-ROUGE

Geneva, September 27, 1946.

Sir,

The International Committee of the Red Cross have the honour to enclose a report drawn up by one of our delegates in Cairo, Jean Munier, following a visit he paid, on June 12 and 13, 1946, to Special Camp 119 in Erytrea, where Jewish political internees are detained.

We beg to remind you that it was at the request of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, in the United States, that we made application in December 1945, to the British Authorities to allow us to instruct one of our delegates to visit the internees in this camp. The object of this visit was to allay the anxiety of Jewish circles as to the treatment granted to these persons. We were also desirous of ascertaining whether it would be necessary to send them relief.

As you will gather from the enclosed report, our delegate himself has already written to the Chief Secretary for Civil Affairs of the Palestine Government, to inform him of certain conclusions drawn after this visit and to request that certain improvements be made in the treatment of these internees, which is on the

The Secretary of State for the Colonies  
Colonial Office  
London

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whole satisfactory. We attach copy of the reply we have just received from the Chief Secretary of the Palestine Government, informing us that, in principle, he consents to relief being forwarded to these internees.

The International Committee would appreciate it highly if the British Authorities would kindly examine favourably various observations made by our delegate and issue instructions accordingly, in view of certain practical improvements in the living conditions of these men. Furthermore, we should be very glad if the British Authorities would kindly take into consideration the remarks made by our delegate regarding the slowness of the internees' mail to and from their next-of-kin, and to and from our Delegation in Cairo.

By far the most important question, however, is the fact that the internees have no status. It appears that the majority were arrested as suspects and not as a result of clearly defined offences, political or otherwise. They have thus been detained for several years without any prospect of a trial, which would possibly allow them to regain their liberty, if no charge can be proved against them.

The International Committee consider it their duty to draw the attention of the British Authorities to the situation of these internees, basing their appeal on the purely humanitarian principles which, for so many years, have guided them in all they have undertaken in behalf of civilians of all nationalities, detained for political reasons or on the ground of public safety.

The International Committee would therefore be most grateful if the British Government could see its way to giving full and careful consideration to the problem constituted by the 282 internees in Camp 119, and, if it is thought feasible, to recommend the responsible Authorities to take all suitable

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measures to have regular legal proceedings instituted in respect of those internees who may be guilty of acts falling under the jurisdiction of British courts. Furthermore, the Committee would be glad to learn that internees who are merely suspects, if it is impossible to release them, will be assigned clear and definite status, implying a less strict form of detention. For example, they might be granted the status of persons under police supervision, but not resident in camps.

The International Committee thank the British Authorities for all measures they may consider possible to take with a view to improving the situation of these internees.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

H. Gallonin  
Director Delegate

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Translation.

Erythrea

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JEWISH POLITICAL INTERNEES DETAINED IN ERYTHREA.

(Special Camp No. 119)

Visited on June 12 and 13, 1946, by Mr. Munier.

Officers seen: Brigadier J.A. Baird, C. in C. Erythrea.  
Lt.Col. D.J. Cusiter, Chief Army M.O.  
Major Bon, Mai Habar Hospital Surgeon.  
Major S. Shearman, Defence Security O. (DSO)  
Major R.G.L. Moore, D.A.A. and Q.M.G.  
Capt. P. Stilley, M.O. in charge of 119  
Capt. N.R. Cave, O. in Command 119.

Supervisor and Interpreter: Dov Milman.

Representatives of Internee  
Committee: Ruben Franco  
Zvi Hadassi  
Isaac Zelnik  
David Yanai.

Strength: Cage A: 204  
Cage B: 78 Total: 282.

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- III. Situation and installation of the camp.
- IV. Hygiene.
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- VI. Dental treatment.
- VII. Food.
- VIII. Kitchen.
- IX. Canteen.
- X. Welfare.
- XI. Games.
- XII. Other leisure and recreation.
- XIII. Correspondence.
- XIV. Clothing.
- XV. Religious services.

Questions submitted by internees.

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  2. Right of internees to receive visits from next-of-kin.
  3. Veterans of 1939-1945 war.
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I. Preliminaries

On February 12, 1945, the Chairman of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation in Washington wrote for the first time to the Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the United States, requesting the Committee to take up the matter of Palestinian citizens suspected of intelligence with terrorist organizations, and who had been deported to Erythrea and thence to the Sudan.

The letter was 7  
may 1947

After an exchange of telegrams and letters between the International Committee and their Delegations in Washington, Cairo and London, and other necessary action, the Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office, London, informed the Committee's Delegation in London by letter dated March 25, 1946, that they had no objection to a Delegate of the Committee visiting these Political Internees, subject however to previous approval by GHQ MEF, to whom these detainees are subordinate. On May 3, GHQ gave their authorization and on June 9, 1946, the Delegate left for Erythrea.

II. Introduction

In order to understand the particular conditions under which the Delegate had to work, some idea must be given of the attitude of the Detaining Authorities and of the internees.

1. From the British point of view, these Jews are the instruments of a terrorist organization, having killed several of their comrades and deported by the Palestine Government, so as to reduce their prospects of escape. Although the British Authorities are unable to furnish peremptory evidence of the guilt of each detainee, they feel convinced that every Palestinian Jew plays the part of accomplice in Palestine. In support of their opinion, they explain that none of those who have up to now organized surprise attacks (murders, sabotage, kidnapping, etc.) have been arrested by the police. According to the British view, therefore, it is clear that in remaining silent, the whole Jewish population gives protection to the conspirators, since nobody is ever denounced, despite the very considerable rewards offered.

Under these circumstances, it is easy to imagine the unfavourable disposition of the British Authorities toward these Political Internees. However, it would seem that a definition of the latter's status, or at least of their rights, would be welcome. Not only these Jews are legally entirely subordinate to the authority of the Palestine Government, but the Military Authorities in Erythrea would then know as in the case of POW and CI what are the limits of their competency.

2. On the Jewish side, the internee representative acknowledged to our Delegate that many of his comrades were not

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ignorant of the reasons for their internment; but several are said to have been kidnapped, imprisoned and deported without any explanation. Several of these men suffer from nervous trouble and hysteria due to prolonged internment (from five to six years) behind barbed wire, and to the uncertainty in which they are regarding the length of their detention.

The problem with which they are most concerned is undoubtedly that of the obtention of a status. They consider themselves as outlaws, since they have not been judged and there is no national or international body to which they can appeal. These people have been cut off from the rest of the world for several years, without any prospect of returning home. This mental condition must be kept in mind.

3. Apart from these two factors, the Delegate states that although every facility was given him when visiting the camp and the hospital, and while talking to the internees and hearing their complaints, the conversation was always followed by a British officer or NCO. Further, all letters, documents and lists handed in by the detainees were censored by the Defence Security Officer, Erythrea. None were withheld, yet they were not handed direct to the Delegate, but had to go through the Security Intelligence M.E. of GHQ in Cairo for transmission to the Delegation.

4. Furthermore, the Military Authorities in Erythrea, as stated, are not responsible for the detention of these internees. Their only task is to detain and feed them, according to instructions from the Palestine Government. As a result, the Delegate was not even in a position to settle on the spot most of the questions which arose, since he had to submit them in writing to the Chief Secretary, Palestine Government. (See copy of the memorandum at the end of report).

### III. Situation and installation of the camp.

Special Camp No. 119 is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Asmara airfield, on the high plateau where the Italians built the capital of Erythrea, about 2,350 meters above sea-level. At this altitude and despite the fact that the country is situated in the tropical zone, the temperature is low in winter and moderate in summer. The rainy season occurs in June and July and at the end of autumn; then, it only rains in Asmara a few hours in the afternoon. The Chief M.O. of the British Administration says that most of the year the atmosphere is too dry which may, he believes, be the cause of insomnia in some cases. It is likely, also, that some internees cannot bear the high altitude, owing to the state of their hearts.

The camp is surrounded by a high double barbed wire fence, and guarded by armed sentinels, placed at intervals of

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about fifty meters who survey the camp from watch-towers provided with search-lights. Until after the incidents of January 17, 1946, the guard consisted of Sudanese soldiers, who have now been replaced by British troops.

The interior of the camp is divided into two parts: Cage A and Cage B, separated by a gate which opens at 07.00 and closes at 17.00 hours. In addition, each compound is surrounded by barbed wire, with a gate which closes at 21.00 hours and opens again in the morning at 07.00 hours.

In Cage A, apart from the four hutments used for accommodation, there are two other hutments one of which serves as refectory and canteen, with the kitchen next to it, and the other for religious services and as class rooms. A playing field has been also laid out.

Cage B includes four compounds, of which two only are used at present.

The wooden hutments rest on iron piles and usually accommodate 40 to 50 men. Each man has a bed, with mattress and four blankets and each compound is fitted with a shower room containing two or three showers, wash-stands and four latrines.

#### IV. Hygiene.

Except for the scarcity of soap and cleaning materials, which it is hoped will soon be remedied as a result of the Delegate's intervention, it may be said that hygienic conditions are good. Once a week, internees can take a warm shower, and cold showers may be had when ever wanted.

However, the detainees themselves are not satisfied with present conditions.

#### V. Medical attention.

Capt. Stilley, responsible M.O., visits the camp regularly, auscults all the detainees who attend his consulting-room, treats the cases whose condition does not require transfer to hospital and recommends to the surgeon at Mai Habar the patients in need of hospital nursing.

A small infirmary has been arranged in the camp with the necessary medicaments, bandaging material and instruments.

The internees stated that while they had nothing but praise for Capt. Stilley, they could not say the same of the treatment they received at Mai Habar Hospital. Whereas formerly, suspect or serious cases were sent direct to the hospital by the camp doctor, patients are now examined again by Major Bon, who decides whether they are to be nursed at Mai Habar or whether they can be treated in camp. As a result, patients are,

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it is alleged, sent to hospital only after a lapse of several weeks and when there, receive no medical treatment in case of chronic or internal disease as no throat, eye or other specialist is available. On the other hand, detainees allege that the hospital doctors recommend patients for repatriation only when their case is hopeless. They give, as an example, their comrade Lubinchik, who died in hospital in April last, and believe that in other medical and climatic conditions, he would doubtless have recovered.

The Delegate considers these allegations as exaggerated. As a matter of fact, he was able to go down to Mai Habar Hospital on Sunday, June 16, and have a talk with Lt. Col. Cusiter, Major Bon, the three internees under treatment and their comrade, who is a medical orderly.

The hospital is situated at the bottom of a well-protected valley, at a distance of an hour's drive from Asmara, at an altitude of about 1,500 meters. It is a fairly large British military hospital; one of the buildings is surrounded by barbed wire and carefully guarded by a detachment of Sudanese soldiers. The interior installation and the nursing are apparently the same as those in hospitals for British troops, and this remark applies also to treatment.

To return to the complaints expressed by the detainees, it is important to take into account the mental reactions due to a life of almost complete idleness during several years, - not to mention the fact that many were in a poor state of health when they were arrested and that they have nothing else to do than to worry about their condition. There are in the camp moreover several cases of neurosis and hysteria, which must be borne in mind, since they cannot but create an atmosphere and exert an unfavourable influence.

The second examination by the surgeon is a step which, according to Lt. Col. Cusiter, is absolutely necessary to prevent abuses and wrong diagnoses. Further arguments quoted by the hospital M.O. are lack of transport and unnecessary overcrowding of hospital wards. However, it would seem that several days elapse between the examination by Capt. Stillely and that by Major Bon, so that it does happen that patients may have had to wait too long before being admitted to hospital. The Delegate drew Major Bon's attention to this question during the talk with this officer.

It is true, - as above stated - that specialists are lacking. But it must be admitted that British and native troops, who are nursed in the same hospital, are no better off.

The Delegate was unable to ascertain the truth of the statement that the doctors did not recommend to the Palestine Government the repatriation of an internee, until a few weeks before the latter's death. As examples are quoted the cases of Zameian and Schlomovitch, who were at Mai Habar at the time of the visit, and in whose behalf the Erythrean military medical

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Authorities, seconded by Brigadier Elliot-Smith, (Consulting Surgeon ME) wrote on January 14 and May 13, 1946. Lt. Col. Cusiter asked the Delegate to take steps with the Palestine Government asking them to approve as soon as possible the medical recommendation in view of repatriation. Therefore, if the return of patients to Palestine is delayed, responsibility must lie with the latter Government alone, to whom the detainees are subordinate. (See letter to Chief Secretary. No.7).

**VI. Dental treatment.**

Ben Harche, a dentist interned in camp No. 119, received the necessary instruments and equipment for dental treatment. As his outfit is not complete, the Delegate asked him to hand in a list of what he required, with the hope of supplying him with these articles should funds be received for that purpose.

In any case, the Delegate was able to state that, due to Ben Harche's endeavours, the teeth of all internees are in good condition.

**VII. Food.**

In April, following an order of the Palestine Government, food rations were reduced. Former and present rations are therefore quoted for purposes of comparison:

	Former rations	Present rations
Bread	12 ounces	12 ounces
Eggs	2 (once a week)	2 (once a week)
Fresh fruit	2	4 or 2 in tins or 4/7 dried
Nuts in shell	3	-
Jam or marmalade	1 (5 times a week)	3/7
Macaroni	3	1 5/7
Fresh milk	3.5	-
Cotton oil	1.75	7/7
Onions	2	1
Peas, beans, lentils	3	2 1/5 or 3 1/7 in tins
Pepper or curry powder	.01 or .03	1/100 (pepper)
Fresh potatoes	6	12
Raisins	1 (once a week)	-
Rice	1.5	2
Salt	-.5	3/8
Sugar	-.875	2
Tea	-.25	1/4
Fresh vegetables	4	8 or 1 dried
Margarine	-	1 5/7
Vinegar	1/10 liquid ounces	-
Palm oil	1/10	-

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Biscuits or flour	-	9
Dried skim-milk	-	1
or condensed milk	-	2
Cheese in boxes	-	2/7
Fresh meat	6 (6 times a week)	3 (6 times a week)
Frozen meat with bones	-	2
or frozen meat without bones	-	1 1/2
or Tinned meat	-	1 1/2

This is not, a priori, a 30 to 40% reduction, as the detainees say, but rather a general measure which has been also applied to POW camps in the Near East. However, the Jews of camp 119 are under the impression that these restrictions have not been enforced as regards their comrades detained in the Palestine prisons, and say that they themselves are constantly hungry. Without the help of their next-of-kin and welfare institutions who send them about 600 pounds monthly, they say that their position would be unbearable.

The photos brought back by the Delegate do not give the impression of starving people. From the observations made on the spot, our Delegate is convinced that the food these detainees get is sufficient if not abundant, thanks, it is true, to the extras they are able to buy with the money sent to them. Further evidence against the argument advanced by the detainees, is the keeness with which they indulge in outdoor games, which they certainly could not do if they were under-nourished.

Taking into account the general shortage of food which prevails throughout the world, the Delegate does not think this complaint is justified. The only point which might be considered by the Palestine Government is the fact - should this allegation be true - that no reduced scale of rations has been applied to internees in Palestine.

Bills of fare for June 11, 1946 are given as examples:

<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Dinner</u>	<u>Supper</u>
4 ounces bread	4 ounces bread	4 ounces bread
Jam	Lentil soup	Meat
Margarine	Rice with tomatoes	Potatoes
Tea	1/2 orange	Beans
		1 cup of tea.

#### VIII. Kitchen.

The kitchen is well equipped; it contains a stove and two oil-heated boilers. A store-room has been set up next to it. The staff consists of 15 cooks, who would be grateful to

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have clothes and shoes, as well as more cleaning materials. As these requests seemed justified, the Delegate suggested that the Chief Secretary and Major Moore take steps in view of meeting them.

**IX. Canteen.**

The canteen is supplied by a Greek contracting company in Asmara, "Supply Co.". Below is a list of food stuffs, with prices.

Bread	1 s.	10	cents	per	kilogram.
Meat (with bones)	2 "	10	"	"	"
Fish	1 "				
Liver	1 "				
Eggs		13	cents	a	piece
White cheese	4 s.			per	kilogram
Dried cheese	7 "	50	"	"	"
Mortadella	4 "	75	"	"	"
Potatoes		65	"	"	"
Tomatoes		90	"	"	"
Onions		80	"	"	"
Turnips		40	"	"	"
Bananas	1 s.	10	"	"	"
Lemons	1 "				for 80 units
Peanuts	2 "	30	"	"	"
Honey	7 "				
Sweets	12 "				
Biscuits	4 "	50			
Flour	1 "	40			
Fresh milk	1 "			per	bottle
Oil	2 "	80		per	kilogram
Vinagar	1 "	40.			

Cigarettes are supplied by the Palestine Government against payment, but complaints were raised about their quality, (They are probably a very old stock of "Neptune Navy Cut" packets which the British doctor himself described as unfit for smoking. The three packets given to the Delegate were mouldy and did not even smell of tobacco). The Delegate drew attention to this point also in his letter to the Chief Secretary.

**X. Welfare.**

The International Committee intend to furnish Jewish Organizations taking an interest in the detainees of Camp 119, with detailed information. The Committee are prepared to act as intermediaries, should these organizations desire to contribute funds, in view of purchasing articles at the request of detainees and with the approval of the donors.

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The camp library now contains about 600 educational books in English. A detailed list of the books which the men would like to receive was handed to the Delegate.

Apart from the parcels which they may receive, next-of-kin can send them sums up to three pounds per month, which are credited to their accounts. As a great many of these men get little money, the Delegate considered it advisable to ask for a list of their names with the approximate amount which was given to them monthly, as well as a list of those who get nothing. (See annexes).

#### XI. Games.

Football is the most played. Eight teams have been formed; these include a team of men detained for more than three years and another of men over thirty. In the last three months, over thirty matches were played, two of these against the British camp guard.

The detainees built a tennis court themselves, with material issued by the British Military Authorities. Forty detainees now play this game with rackets and balls they bought themselves. The Delegate was asked to get ten dozen balls and fifty pairs of tennis shoes against payment by the men. On arriving in Cairo, he had these articles sent.

Volley-ball matches are held almost every day by three teams of detainees.

For those who take an interest in this game two ping-pong tables are available, but they are in poor condition.

The Games Committee organized on May 22 and 23 some athletic sports and races in which about 50 men took part; this was most successful. The Committee has to cope with technical difficulties, owing to lack of outfit, but it does its best to develop interest in games.

#### XII. Other leisure and recreation.

A Hebrew daily paper, written by hand, circulates in the camp. In order to improve this publication, the Delegate was asked if a typewriter with Hebrew characters could be secured.

A radio set functions in the refectory during day-time, and from 17 hours it is placed alternatively one day in Cage A and the next day in Cage B. A second set for the camp and a third one for the Mai Habar hospital would be welcome.

English films are shown every week on the screen set up in the camp refectory.

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**XIII. Mail.**

Delays of several weeks occur in the delivery of letters and parcels, which creates ill-feeling on both sides.

The Delegate enquired into this question and found out the reason of these delays. All messages or parcels are censored by the Palestine Government and are sent by rail via Egypt and Sudan, or vice-versa. This system is certainly not the quickest, but it appears to be the only one available at present.

The detainees asked the Delegate whether he had received their letters and memoranda. He had to admit that nothing they had sent had reached him, but said that he would ask the Chief Secretary to allow a system of mail exchange between the detainees and the Committee's Delegation.

**XIV. Clothing.**

The clothing situation is poor, although the men do not suffer by it, in the warm season. Recently, and to remedy the absence of relief from the Palestine Government, the British Military Authorities in Erythrea decided to issue to each man: 1 shirt, 1 under-garment, 1 pair of trousers, 1 pair of pants, 1 pair of socks and 1 pair of shoes.

No exchange of clothes or worn-out shoes has taken place in the last four months; therefore the Delegate took the liberty of drawing the attention of the Detaining Authorities to this question in his letter of June 26 (See annex, item 2).

**XV. Religious services.**

Jacob Schreibaum, the camp rabbi, is not detained, but came freely to the camp, where he occupies a room in a hutment of Cage A. He is allowed to act freely and with the exception of a sacrilege committed by the former camp Commander and for which apologies were made to the detainees, their faith and religious services are carefully respected.

**QUESTIONS PUT BY THE INTERNEES.**

**(1) Relief to Next-of-kin of Detainees.**

The Delegate was requested to suggest to the Government of Palestine that it should investigate the living conditions of the internees' families, many of whom are now without their head or breadwinner. This question is dealt with under B (c) of our letter to the Chief Secretary.

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The Delegate is further aware that there is a Palestine Committee whose purpose is the helping of these Next-of-Kin, as the internees have asked him to get in touch with it. This is: The Committee for Relief to Families of Jewish Detainees, 4, Shedal Street, Tel-Aviv.

It is likely too that the Jewish world organizations are doing everything in their power to help all Jewish persons in difficulties in Palestine and elsewhere.

(2) Right of Internees to receive visits from Next-of-Kin.

The internees complain bitterly that they have never been able to see their families since the day of their capture. This is, according to them, contrary to the custom observed in prisons in Palestine.

The painful nature of this long separation is obvious. It appears that the only solution satisfactory to the detainees would be to transfer them from Erythrea to some place nearer home.

(3) Ex-Service Men 1939-1945.

Below is an exact and unabridged translation of a memorandum handed to the Delegate during his visit to Camp 119:

Translation

Asmara, June 12, 1946.

"Sir,

We have the honour to submit the following memorandum:

In this camp which you have just honoured with your visit there are in detention fifteen Ex-Service Men of the British Army, who belonged to the three services:- Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. There is also a former member of the British Merchant Navy.

Joining up as volunteers in Palestine at the outbreak of hostilities, these sailors, soldiers and airmen have served in all climes, in the seven seas and in various campaigns, especially in Lybia, Northern Africa and Italy. Some of them even distinguished themselves, as their decorations attest. Enlisting as volunteers they served loyally, making no thought for their personal safety, wherever called upon. The God of War having spared them, they managed to escape safe and sound, or with slight wounds only. That their conduct was exemplary or excellent, their certificates of demobilization issued to them by the Forces sufficiently prove. Further evidence is given by the various N.C.O. ranks to which they were promoted. Then, apparently,

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demunciations by jealous or ill disposed comrades led to hurried demobilization and singularly arbitrary arrest. Some were brought from the depths of the desert, others from France, Italy, Iran, etc. Without any semblance of trial, or of proper investigation, with no foundation or reason other than those already mentioned (scandalous and anonymous demunciations) these volunteers, schooled by the crash of gunfire and bombardments, who had faced torpedoes on the high seas, were cast into detention camps like common gangsters or murderers. All their demands for an enquiry or a trial were received with scornful silence. Their applications to national or international institutions were filed in pigeon holes, right at the bottom, where they were completely forgotten. Subjected to pitiless censorship, their complaints addressed to their Next-of-Kin suffered the same fate as their applications. Thus, cut off from the rest of civilized humanity, like pariahs, they are now wasting away in prison. In prison, where they have the necessary leisure to meditate upon the high lights of the Atlantic Charter - that Charter which their blood helped to write, so that the world might live in freedom!

The world, no doubt, but not themselves... Torn from their families and children, they have to suffer the mental torture of knowing that their nearest and dearest are slowly dying of starvation, with nobody to give them the slightest material aid.

Sir, we are not aware how far our case is provided for by the International Convention of Geneva. It is, indeed, possible that it is not provided for at all. However, in turning to the International Red Cross, we feel we are appealing to world conscience, as the two are synonymous.

We should therefore be grateful, Sir, if you would kindly take the following facts into consideration, as they illustrate our case most eloquently:-

- (a) The Government of Palestine exiled a number of suspected Arabs and interned them in Rhodesia - like ourselves, without grounds or motive. The High Court of Rhodesia, to which these Arabs appealed, ruled some months ago that their detention was illegal. They were therefore released and the Palestine Government raised no objection to granting them entrance visas.
- (b) When members of the Anglo-American Enquiry Commission visited the Detention Camp of Latrum in Palestine, they received a deputation of Ex-Service men, interned there. This step immediately bore fruit. On the recommendation of the Commission, our comrades in arms and in detention were at once released.

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(c) Other former Ex-Service men, detained at Latrum (whence we were brought here) have been released, thanks to powerful influences,

In consideration whereof, and considering that these consequences are irrefutable in logic, considering that equity is an absolute quality which cannot be relative or discriminatory,

We beg the International Red Cross to conclude as follows:

- (a) Either we are dangerous to public safety - and, in this case, why are lots of us being released ?
- (b) Or our detention is merely arbitrary - and then we should enjoy the same treatment.

Not everyone numbers among their connexions people in a high position. Moreover, it was not our good fortune to have the Commission of Enquiry knocking at the camp gate. That is why, Sir, the Ex-Service Men, on whose behalf this memorandum is handed to you, submit their case to that International Red Cross which is the symbol of world conscience, of Civilisation and of that which in this world makes life worth living. On their behalf and on that of their mothers, wives, fathers and children, they urge upon you to employ the immense moral prestige which is yours the world over, to appeal to the conscience of those responsible, so that justice may be done them, so that this absolute, arrogant, and immoral denial of justice to Ex-Service Men may cease. They have entire confidence in you to lay their case before the proper authorities, so that liberty, the "freedom from fear" for which they fought three, four and five years, may be meted out to them also; to men who did not stint their blood to save the world for freedom.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

The Ex-Service Men detained in Exile, at Asmara.

Enclosed:

List of Ex-Service Men, detained in this Camp."

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List of Ex-Service Men  
now detained in exile at ASMARA.

ROYAL NAVY

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Arrested</u>
P/O HOROWITZ Guerchon	1923	2/9/42	7/2/45
" ORNSTEIN Schlomo	1922	13/5/42	6/9/45

ARMY

Sgt. FRANCO Ruben	1908	2/1/41	27/4/45
" POUNIMOUNSKI Samuel	1914	7/12/39	4/5/45
Pte. STRUSMAN Henry	1900	14/8/42	9/7/45
" KALMY Isaac	1915	13/1/43	28/4/45
" EKDACHI Guerchon	1923	15/12/42	28/4/45
" MORGENSTERN Pessah	1920	14/8/41	5/7/45
" LINIEVSKI David actually wounded, in Hospital- Particulars not available			

R . A . F

LAG. STERNBERG Abraham	1922	7/7/40	4/5/45
" REZNICKY Herzl	1922	27/7/40	13/4/45
" SITNER Joseph	1914	9/7/40	27/7/45
" WINDMAN Emmanuel	1922	6/12/40	6/4/45
" SHIBERT Isaac	1913	10/6/40	16/4/45
" MIGA Rafael	1921	15/7/40	6/4/45

MERCHANT NAVY

ARONIS Mordehai	1926	5/1/44	24/8/44
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(4) Events of January 17, 1946.

The International Committee of the Red Cross have not had cognisance of the report presented by the British Authorities, nor of the result of the investigations of the Board of Enquiry which sat on this matter.

We think it useful to insert below the version we were handed in writing by the internees, enclosing a plan of the spot where the incidents took place, which our Delegate inspected with the internee Franco and Captain Cave, Camp Commandant:

The Murder on the 17th of January 1946 in the Camp of Jewish Detainees in exile - Erythrea.

"On the 20.12.45 a party of 55 Jewish Detainees was deported from Palestine to Erythrea. They were put in a small separate compound under the S.D.F. Guard.

Through the same S.D.F. guard we learned that they were told stories saying that Jews are killing Moslems and British officers in Palestine, that it would be an offence to the Moslems religion to have any deal with Jews or to be bribed by them. The attitude of the Sudanese guards towards the above special compound where 55 new arrivals were kept, was most disturbing. Without any provocation, the detainees were very often challenged by the guards, who pointed their rifles towards the detainees. Brigadier Greenfield, then 19 Area Commander, was informed in writing about this situation and was warned that if any disaster would happen, the responsibility would be his.

On the 17th of January 1946, at about 8.30 in the morning, two British O.Rs entered the above compound and went to the cookhouse. At this time, the detainees were about to finish their breakfast. One of the detainees put a form out of the dining-hall and sat in front of the sentry box No.2 (See sketch att.). The sentry shouted to him to get up and go away. The detainee got up and went towards S.E. of the sentry box at a distance of 6 yards (see sketch) asking the sentry why shouldn't he sit there, as the detainees had never been prevented from that. The sentry challenged the detainee, pointing his rifle towards him and his colleagues who persuaded the first one to leave the place. The detainee made a movement with both hands, a movement of resignation and went towards the entrance of the dining-hall. While going, he was suddenly shot <sup>with</sup> bullet at his throat and fell at a distance of 6 yards (six yards !!!) from the fence.

The two British O.Rs together with three other detainees rushed towards the wounded man, fetched a mattress and carried the wounded towards the main gate (see sketch). The inner gates were shut, but unlocked, while the other gates were locked. The group of 5 men carrying the wounded accompanied by other

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12-14 detainees came before the inner unlocked main gate and asked the Sudanese sentry to open the gate in order to bring the bleeding wounded detainee to the First Aid station, situated outside the compound. The sentry refused to open the gate. One of the British O.Rs and one detainee pushed with their feet the unlocked inner main gate, which was open ajar about half a yard.

At this moment, a shot was fired by one of the Sudanese standing with charged rifles, between the fences and behind them. (They were gathered there by the alarm given after the first shot by sentry No.2). Immediately after that shot a concentrated M.G.rifles fire was opened from all the Sudanese standing between the fences, behind them and in the sentry boxes.

Then the wounded detainee was shot again by several M.G. bullets at his head and died on the spot (3 yards from the inner gate). About six detainees were wounded at the same place, whereas the two British O.Rs were miraculously untouched. One detainee was shot dead at the entrance of the dining-hall (40 - forty yards from the main gate - see sketch). Three detainees were wounded inside the dining-hall, another three, while running the yard to take cover. Tens of bullets have penetrated the huts. A man-hunt with firing bullets was made after two detainees who were running for shelter from the concentrated fire.

The results: 2 murdered and 12 wounded of which six seriously.

A Military Court of Enquiry was summoned by the Area Commander on January 18, 1946. The two British O.Rs present at the time of the murder in the compound, gave vague evidence about the murdered by sentry No.2 "having seen something white flying in the air towards sentry No.2, which they presumed was a stone". All Sudanese sentries asked by the President of the Court, why and by whose orders did they fire, answered: "By nobody's orders, but we had previous orders for such an event explained to us by the Sgt's twice a week".

This camp was asked to give its evidence to the Court: "after having heard the Arab side of the story, I want to have the Jewish side of it". The Camp refused to give any evidence, asking for an international body of enquiry or a Representative of the "International Red Cross". Both appeals were refused.

This camp, seeing danger to their lives, refused to get out of the billets, and a partial hunger strike was proclaimed until its demands were fulfilled.

On February 2, Major General S.D. Stainer on behalf of the C. in C. M.E.F. called a delegation of the detainees in the Camp's office. With pointed rifles towards the three representatives of the camp and in the presence of the officers, sgts and some O.Rs of the Staff, he gave the following masterpiece:

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"I want to give you my mind about the situation:

- (1) Your request for changing the guard with white one is flatly refused by the G.H.Q.
- (2) Your request for a commission of enquiry for a representative of the International Red Cross is flatly refused by the G.H.Q.
- (3) The Brigadier was too good to you, but you did not help him much.
- (4) That what happened on January 17, 1946 is that your people provoked the black sentries, throwing stones and bursting the gates open. What do you think the soldiers are given rifles for, and what is the barbed wire for? They killed two and the wounded as well, it is their fault, although I do not justify the amount of ammunition used.

You and your people in Palestine are killing unarmed British soldiers, white and black, blowing up bridges, and we have to maintain a large army there. Your army, at least you call it so, is killing and plundering and you considered as P.W. We are in Palestine before an open war which you have declared to the British Empire.

The G.H.Q. Cairo doesn't care much if the whole lot of you is shot. If you want to starve yourself, you may do so. If you want to make a nuisance of yourself, nobody cares about, and whatever publicity you will seek, it won't help you much."

There is no guarantee whatsoever after such a declaration that this case of simple murders would not be repeated. Therefore, we ask your kind intervention on behalf of the social principles cherished by your Committee, in order to have an International body, as yours, to investigate this case and the case of our exile in general. Only the elimination of this exile will put an end to our situation of unprotected outlaws."

The International Committee of the Red Cross are obviously unable to express any considered opinion as to the complaints made by the internees. However, they express the keen hope that the change of guard, which has been carried out, will prevent the recurrence of similar incidents. They further trust that the Camp Authorities will take all necessary steps to this end.

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(5) Status.

The point which causes the internees the gravest concern is that they should no longer be regarded as outlaws. They present their case as follows:

The lack of a proper status is the cause of all the difficulties and suffering in the camp. The internees, just like the Authorities, do not seem to know what they may claim as their rights and what are their privileges. This means that the internees are at the mercy of the Detaining Power. They quote as examples the case of the playing field, (the use of which may be forbidden), the two separated cages, the canteen purveyor who is forbidden to cater for them - all this in consequence of an order by the Commandant and without the internees being in a position to defend themselves on the grounds of any written regulation, convention or law.

They allege that they have frequently heard contradictory statements from various authorities regarding their status. They say they were arrested by the Palestine Authorities on the grounds of Section 15 b of the "Emergency Regulations of Palestine". These regulations apparently allow the Palestine police to detain persons for a period not exceeding twelve months; consequently the police appear to be infringing this law.

On arriving in Erythrea, in 1944, the then Camp Commandant is said to have stated that they were detained on the grounds of Section 17 of the said Emergency Regulations, that is to say, that they were to be considered as internees.

General Stanier, who inspected Camp 119, is said to have used the expression "Prisoners of War".

The foregoing has led the internees to beg the International Committee most earnestly to clear up the mystery hanging over their status, which they wish to have officially defined and recognized.

Their most serious grievance is to have been imprisoned and deported without trial. They quote the case of 251 among them who, on October 19, 1944, were taken in Palestine concentration camps and transferred to Erythrea by plane, without explanation. On January 25, 1945, they were taken to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and finally conducted to their present camp on October 9, 1945. Apparently, therefore, none of these deportees have been brought to trial or informed why they were detained and deported. A number of them had already spent long terms in prison in Palestine, ranging from two weeks to four years. They also stress the case of those who fought on the Allied side during the recent War.

It would appear, moreover, that there is no law in Palestine which authorises citizens of that country to be deported or interned abroad. The men quote the case of one of

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their comrades who is said to have appealed against the injustice to which he was subjected. The Court dealing with the case apparently admitted that deportation and detention abroad were illegal, and decided that it was not competent to issue a repatriation order, as the British Authorities in Erythrea held the men back. This matter has now, it is said, been submitted to the Privy Council which has not yet come to a decision. Further, there is apparently no definition whatever regarding duration or limit of the period of detention. Many detainees appear to have been over five years in prison or in a concentration camp. It is this fact which weighs the heaviest on the internees and is the cause of nervous depression.

The internees would also be glad to know to which authorities, institutions or agencies they might appeal for the defence of their interests. It is obvious that the day their status is decided on, this question will be automatically settled.

To sum up, the internees suggest that the only remedy for their unhappy situation is to send them home to Palestine, to try those against whom the Government is able to bring charges and to release the others. Meanwhile living conditions in the camp should be improved. They expressed the hope, moreover, that the International Committee might forward their application to the responsible Authorities, devote their attention to their lot and frequently send representatives to visit them.

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June 26th, 1946.

Mr. J.V.W. SHAW  
Chief Secretary,  
Civil Affairs,  
Palestine Government,  
JERUSALEM.

Dear Sir,

Having been permitted by the Colonial Office's Under Secretary and the Commander in Chief, Middle East, to visit - on behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva - the Palestinian Jews detained in Erythrea, the undersigned has been at 119 Special Camp, Asmara, on June 11th and 12th. 1946.

In this connection, we have the honour to submit to your kind attention the following facts and individual cases:

1. Cigarettes:

We are enclosing a sample of the cigarettes which are at present supplied to the detainees. It will be noticed that such cigarettes are not fit for consumption and therefore it would be appreciated if another blend could be made available.

2. Clothing:

The following items have been distributed to the detainees by the British Military Authorities in Erythrea:

- 1 shirt
- 1 p. trousers
- 1 vest
- 1 p. of drawers
- 1 p. of socks and
- 1 p. of boots.

Nevertheless, we have been told that this issue has been made more or less as a favour, as the responsibility of supplying clothes to the detainees was falling upon the Palestinian Government. Apart from these facts, no change of clothing has been possible since February 1946. It would be appreciated if this matter could be investigated and perhaps you could also examine the possibility of issuing working clothes and shoes to the cooks who need them very badly owing to constant daily contact with water and dirt.

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3. Correspondence:

The detainees complain of the slowness of mail between them and their relatives in Palestine. They have also informed the undersigned that more than one letter has been sent to I.R.C.C., while such messages have never reached us.

We believe that something could be done to improve the mail service and we shall be obliged if you could eventually grant permission to the detainees to write to us in the future.

4. Welfare:

We have been asked to supply 10 dozen tennis balls and 50 pairs tennis shoes on repayment.

Apart from this supply, we intend asking the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, Washington, USA, to put at our disposal a sum which we could use for:

- (1) buying books for studies and novels in English, German, French and Hebrew.
- (2) the purchase of dental material and equipment.
- (3) helping detainees who are not receiving or but little money from their relatives.
- (4) the supply of three radio sets: two for the camp itself and one for Mai Habar Hospital.
- (5) the purchase of a Hebrew writing-machine.

We hope that there are no major objections on your side in connection with this welfare plan of ours and we shall appreciate to have your approval.

5. Soap in general and cleaning material for the canteen:

We have spoken to Major Moore, DAA and CMH about these articles, which are in very short supply. Same will be dealt with on the spot.

6. Status, limit of detention, trial incidents of 17/1/46:

These questions will be discussed in Geneva by the undersigned, as it is only for the I.R.C.C. Headquarters to decide whether steps could or should be taken to amend certain regulations.

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7. Individual cases:

A. Medical:

(a) SCHLAIMOVITCH Gaiman & Zemeinan Z.

We paid a visit at Mai Habar Hospital where these two men are taken care of. They have been recommended to you for repatriation on medical grounds, Schlaimovitch already on January 1946 and again, with Zemeinan, on May 13th. These recommendations were approved by Brigadier Elliot-Smith, consulting surgeon, MEF.

Lt. Col. Cusiter, Chief Medical Officer of Mai Habar Hospital, and Major Bon, Chief Surgeon, who explained to the undersigned the story of these rather compassionate cases, realize that the health of these men is deteriorating very quickly and that it should be high time to send them back to Palestine.

We should be most grateful if you could do something for these two detainees as soon as possible.

(b) GUTMANN Yechezkel:

He is one of the men who have been wounded on January 17th, 1946 (five bullets in his legs). Since then and after having been in hospital for some time, he is complaining of having nerve attacks, which have been confirmed to me by his comrades and the camp's M.C., Capt. Stille. It seems that the latter recommended Gutmann twice to the attention of the C.I.D. without receiving any reply. In the meantime, he is asking for proper treatment.

(c) KORB Eliahu:

He pretends having been tortured during a long period of detention in Palestine where he received afterwards proper treatment. At present, he is complaining that nothing is done to improve his health condition.

According to Lt. Col. Cusiter there is no trace of maltreatment on his body, but he is one of the neurotic and hysterical cases, who suffers from a long detention.

(d) HADARI Jehuda:

This is another medical case which has been brought to the attention of Lt. Col. Cusiter on our visit to Mai Habar Hospital.

Hadari is not only suffering from a neurotic disease but he is complaining about the state of his teeth and eyes which are getting worse every day, according to his statement. It would seem that a medical statement has been sent to C.I.D. about this case some time ago.

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(e) FEDERMANN David:

This is the last case which has been brought to our notice. According to doctors, Federmann revealed no sign of illness and is probably one of the neurotic cases. He is lying on his bed, does not want to get up and pretends to suffer from painful stomach attacks. We could only see that he was looking pale and weak.

Not being a doctor, the undersigned only understands that neurotic and hysterical cases are very difficult to control, as nobody could tell how far someones can pretend or are really convinced of illness.

Nevertheless, we think that a suggestion could be made as regards medical cases in general for C.I.D. to show broader views and rely more on Lt. Col. Cusiter medical advice when he is suggesting that a detainee should be repatriated on the ground that his health is deteriorating and getting worse every day.

We perfectly understand the way you feel towards people who are detained under Palestine Defence Regulations on the ground of suspected complicity in terroristic activities, but we are also certain that you are well acquainted with our Red Cross mission and could not think of any partiality on our part. We are only making all efforts to see the sole human point of view on both sides and have visited this camp in this spirit.

B. Special:

(a) Rubinstein Robert: asks whether, in case a foreign university is prepared to accept him, you would release him.

(b) 16 Second World War Veterans: these men handed over a long memorandum to the undersigned about their fate. In fact, their arguments rely especially on the difference which seems to prevail between Arab terrorists, deported by your Government to Rhodesia, and themselves. According to their statement, the Arabs having appealed to the Rhodesian Supreme Court, the latter would have declared their detention illegal and released them. They also pretend that the veterans, who were interned at Letrum have been liberated after a visit paid to that camp by some members of the Anglo-American Enquiry Commission.

(c) Assistance to families of detainees: many internees are very anxious to know who is taking care of their families as some of them were the only support. We would greatly appreciate if you could kindly direct us in this question.

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We shall be obliged if you could kindly study these different claims and would appreciate if you could inform us in due time of the action you have been able to take.

On the whole, we have to emphasize that, as regards the accommodation, sports facilities and hygiene, this camp is very well organized and most efficiently administered. Moreover, the internees recognized that since the Sudanese guard has been changed against a British one, general conditions have improved and that there is less nervousness.

Thanking you in anticipation, we remain, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

(S) J.F. MUNIER  
I.R.C.C. delegate.

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LIST OF INTERNEES AND OF AMOUNTS THEY HAVE RECEIVED  
SINCE JANUARY 1, 1946.

The following detainees  
received 1.-(one) pound as  
from 1.1.1946.

1. HAMBURGER	Ephraim
2. HAMBURGER	Pinhas
3. TORENBURG	Bohemia
4. YOLK	Ja-acov
5. ZEPHANIA	Meir
6. STRUSSMAN	Henri

The following detainees received  
no money as from 1.1.1946.

1. AMIR	Asher	
2. ARIELI	Aryeh	
3. BEN-SHLOMO	Shlomo	
4. BEN-HAROSH	Itamar	Dr.
5. GLIKSMAN	David	
6. HILEL	Ja'cov	
7. ZURAVIN	Eliezer	
8. SINGER	Simha	
9. HANANI	Haim	Dr.
10. JUDAIKIN	Nathan	
11. JANAI	David	
12. JITZHAKI	Shalom	
13. JERUSHALMI	Aharon	
14. COHEN	Joseph	
15. LEVY	Shlomo	
16. LEWIN	Jerahmiel	
17. MIRANDA	Moshe	
18. MENASHE	Joseph	
19. MIZRAHI	Bazuch	
20. SITNER	Joseph	
21. AFFAR	S'muel	
22. FEDERMAN	David	
23. FREIMAN	Menahem	
24. FEINBERG	Matatyah	
25. ZUCKERMAN	Aharon	
26. CZELABI	Ja'acov	
27. ZELNIK	Yitzhak	
28. KEHATI	Amran	
29. KORB	Eliahn	
30. KIRSHNER	Zvi	
31. KALMI	Yitzhak	
32. KAPLAN	Shmuel	
33. ROSENBERG	Yeshayahn	
34. SHOMER	Nahman	
35. SHTERNBERG	Gabriel	
36. SHIFF	Menahem	
37. SHLAFER	Jaacov	
38. SHMUELI	Joseph	
39. SHEHORI	Mordehai	
40. SHIBER	Jisrael	
41. PONIEMUNSKI	S.	
42. MORGENSTERN	Pesah.	

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The following detainees received L.P.3.- (three) as from the 1.1.1946.

1.	BEHAR	Abraham
2.	"	Izhak
3.	"	Shalom
4.	GROSS	Ja'acov
5.	GRUNDLAND	Renven
6.	"	Nathan
7.	WEISS	Azriel
8.	SINGER	Jisrael
9.	MIZRAHI	Meshe
10.	ALMANI	Albert
11.	PLEN	Haim
12.	KORFU	"
13.	"	Shmuel
14.	SHAMI	Joseph

The following detainees received L.P.5.- (five) as from the 1.1.1946.

1.	AUERBACH	Pinhas
2.	EICHENBAUM	Moshe D.
3.	ERLICH	Izhak
4.	GORODISKI	Aryeh
5.	MAHNAI	Yeshaye
6.	GOTSKOZAK	Joseph
7.	HOCHMAN	Yehuda
8.	WOLPE	Moshe
9.	WOLKIN	David
10.	SICHERMAN	Haim
11.	MIZRAHI	Zerubadel
12.	MEINER	Dev
13.	STRELITZ	Hanoch
14.	"	Michael

The following detainees received L.P. 2.- (two) as from the 1.1.1946.

1.	ADARI	Jehuda
2.	AHARONI	Pinhas
3.	YEHUDAJOF	Joseph
4.	"	Zvi
5.	BARAZANI	Zadok
6.	GUTER	Ephraim
7.	GESHURI	"
8.	HERSHKOVITZ	Yeshaya
9.	HURVITZ	Haim
10.	WINDMAN	Emanuel
11.	WEINGRUBER	Levy
12.	SEMELMAN	Zalman
13.	TRACHTMAN	Shlomo
14.	COHEN	Jehoshua
15.	LINIEWSKI	David
16.	MIZZAH	Yitzhak
17.	REVAHA	Jonathan
18.	MIZZAH	Joseph
19.	"	Yitzhak (2)
20.	MICA	Raphael
21.	MICHAILOVITZ	Aharon
22.	SEREBRO	Moshe
23.	SAMUELOF	Meir
24.	PADA ZUR	Jona
25.	PINHASOVITZ	Leopold
26.	PERAHYAH	Joseph
27.	KADOSH	Ehabu
28.	SHOZAN	Abraham
29.	SHULMAN	Nahman

The following detainees received L.P. 4.- (four) as from the 1.1.1946.

1.	ABUGOV	Michael
2.	ABRAHAM	Elieser
3.	ABRAMOVITZ	Gershon
4.	ORLOVSKI	David
5.	ORMAN	Uziel
6.	BEHAR	Albert
7.	BOYM	Mordehas
8.	GROSSMAN	"
9.	DAVIDSON	Sender
10.	DULA	Shlomo

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The following detainees received L.P. 6.- (six) as from the 1.1.1946.

- 1. ELISON Abraham
- 2. AXELROD Abraham
- 3. ENDAHI Gershom
- 4. BLAGODATNY Mordehai
- 5. BRAVERMAN Meir
- 6. BECKMAN Ja'acov
- 7. BEZOLEL "
- 8. GITLER Dov
- 9. DEREVIANSKI Shabetai
- 10. HOCHGLIK Tuvia
- 11. HURVITZ Gershom
- 12. SELTZER David
- 13. CASPI Joseph
- 14. LIPHSHITZ Shlomo
- 15. MOLDAWSKI Moshe
- 16. RUBINSTEIN Dov
- 17. ROSENBAFF Zvi
- 18. RIPS Simha
- 19. SHECHTER Szymon

The following detainees received L.P. 4.- (four) as from the 1.1.1946.

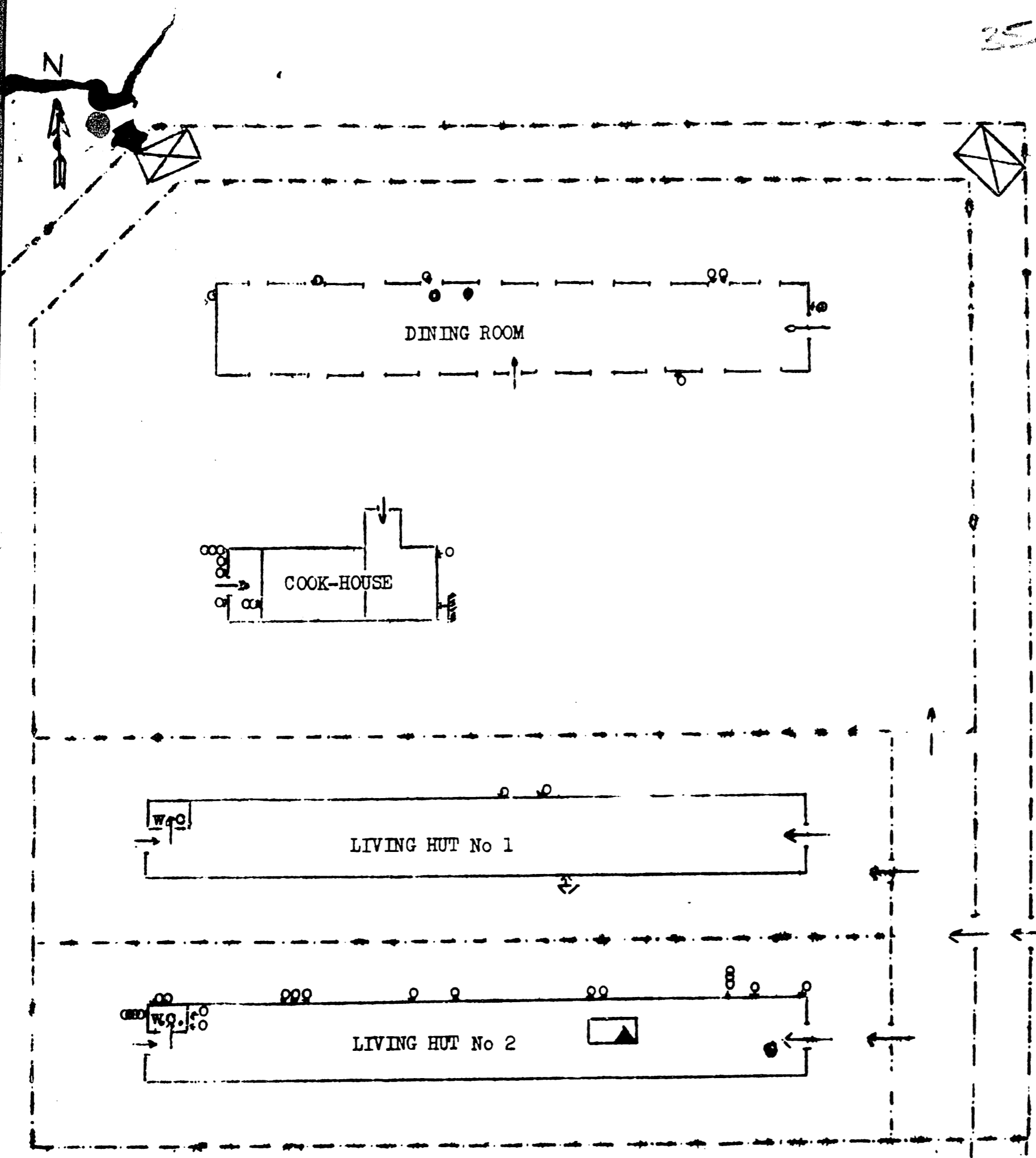
- 11. DRUKMAN David
- 12. HERMONI Zvi
- 13. JANKELEVITZ Dov
- 14. LEVY Moshe
- 15. LAKS Baruch
- 16. LASHAN Jitshal
- 17. MEIRI Shlomo
- 18. MIZRAHI Ja'acov
- 19. MICHAILOVITZ "
- 20. LEVY Joseph
- 21. NAKAR Eliahn
- 22. NEMAD Moshe
- 23. SIMAN-TOV Abraham
- 24. ABADI Shaul
- 25. RAM Meir
- 26. SZLEMOVITZ Kalman

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- - - - - Barbed wire fence
- ⊠ Guard
- | - Gate
- | - Window
- | - Door
- o Bullet hole in a wall

- o Two neighbouring holes
- o Three " "
- o Blood spot on the floor
- ▲ Bullet in wood
- ↘ Bullet traces on stone wall
- ↘ Human hair with blood on wall

SCALE 1:300  
 Remark: the plan is drawn only approximately to scale, as all distances have been measured primitively in paces (1 pace taken as 80 cm.)

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25

Registry  
No. E 8387638/31

Top Secret  
Secret  
Confidential  
Restricted  
Open

*11/12*  
Draft letter to  
Mr. Trafford  
Smith, C.O.  
Telegram from  
(Mr. Baxter)

*H.P. 19/12*  
Sir H.P. Sabou

*H.B. 17/2*

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUT FILE

+ CC

F. O.,

36

25<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
Despatched

, 194

M.

Dear Trafford Smith,

Please refer to your letter no. 76305/1 of January 24th, in which you enquire about the status of the International Red Cross in relation to the Jewish detainees in Eritrea.

I understand that the position is as follows:

(i) The International Red Cross is 'international' only in the sense that it is a body round which centre all national Red Cross societies. It is actually composed of Swiss citizens, and its activities are of a general humanitarian nature.

(ii) The Geneva Convention of 1929, in which rules are laid down for the treatment of prisoners, applies only to prisoners of war.

(iii) It thus appears that the International Red

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Red Cross has no jurisdiction, and that the Geneva Convention does not apply in this instance. It is natural that the military authorities in Eritrea should as a matter of convenience have provided a camp organisation very much on the lines of the Prisoners of War Conventions, but they were not obliged to do so. They and the Palestine Government were free to treat suspected Jewish terrorists as they thought fit.

There is of course nothing to prevent the Palestine Government and the military authorities from receiving the representations of the International Red Cross or from allowing relief to be sent to the internees through that organisation.

Yours sincerely

*MM* 19/2  
(Sgd.) C.W. Barker.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

25th February, 1947.

(E 838/838/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

*Dear Trafford Smith,*

Please refer to your letter No. 76305/1 of 24th January, in which you enquire about the status of the International Red Cross in relation to the Jewish detainees in Eritrea.

I understand that the position is as follows:

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(ii) The Geneva Convention of 1929, in which rules are laid down for the treatment of prisoners, applies only to prisoners of war.

(iii) It thus appears that the International Red Cross has no jurisdiction, and that the Geneva Convention does not apply in this instance. It is natural that the military authorities in Eritrea should as a matter of convenience have provided a camp organisation very much on the lines of the Prisoners of War Convention, but they were not obliged to do so. They and the Palestine Government were free to treat suspected Jewish terrorists as they thought fit.

There is of course nothing to prevent the Palestine Government and the military authorities from

/receiving

Trafford Smith, Esq.,  
Colonial Office.

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receiving the representatives of the International  
Red Cross or from allowing relief to be sent to  
the internees through that organisation.

Yours Sincerely

(Sgd.) (C.W. Baxter)

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END.

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